



No Thoroughfare

Charles Dickens , Wilkie Collins

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No Thoroughfare Details

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collaborative work, it is highly entertaining. You can see the influence of both writers and their individual styles (Dickens' eye for quirky characters, Collins' love of the complex villain and complex plot). So you get the best of both world here. Highly recommended, especially if you like the work of either or both authors.

Steph says

This is a fun Dickens. Although, I love Dickens, so that makes it easy to enjoy! It's in "play" form, and as most Dickens' it has great characters. I probably wouldn't say it's my all time favorite of his, but it's definitely a fun read.

Kendra says

I love Wilkie Collins AND Charles Dickens, so this was a real treat for me. Not the best book ever written, but I still enjoyed it tremendously...

Inese Okonova says

Nek?das ?pašas liter?ras kvalit?tes šaj? Dikensa un Kolinsa kopdarb? neatrast. Luga burtiski mudž no abu dižgaru iem??ot?ko klišeju summas kvadr?t?. Te ir gan b?rn?b? samain?ti b?re?i, nepareizajam b?renim atst?ts liels mantojums, romantiska m?lest?ba, ?aunu v?st?jošas z?mes, nodev?gs un slepkavniecisks s?ncensis, atmaskojošs dokuments, izgl?bšan?s no n?ves par mata tiesu Šveices Alpu p?rej?, slepens seifs kalnu kloster?, senu v?stu?u nejauša atrašana, laim?ga sagad?šan?s un, protams, laim?gas beigas. K? jums pat?k? Tas viss neliela izm?ra ludzi??, kas savulaik pl?ca laurus London?. Tom?r par sp?ti š?m šausm?m las?šanu izbaud?ju, kaut vai priec?joties par šo ki?u. Un ar? t?p?c, ka ir p?ris lielisku vecu kalpot?ju t?lu, kuru asprat?gos dialogus ir prieks las?t. Talantu mais? nenosl?psi :)

Jason Furman says

No Thoroughfare is far and away the best of Dickens' collaborative works. Co-written with Wilkie Collins, it is a melodrama in "four acts" beginning with a dramatic prologue in a house for foundlings, and culminating in the final act learning the true identity of the foundling--with an epilogue that ties up the last loose end.

It is tightly written from beginning to end, with a well constructed plot--at least allowing for the standard repertoire of coincidence that is allowable in these sorts of a works. It has high drama--including a scene on a snowy mountain pass between Switzerland and Italy. And it has a noble hero, a tragic figure, a plucky heroine, a villain, and a number of effective lawyers to push it all along.

It does not have much humor, it's best character would not stand in the top ten of any of Dickens' novels, but on its own terms it works well.

Jason says

Read in A Christmas Carol and Other Christmas Classics

This was wonderful! I don't know if it was wonderful because it really is wonderful or because it was such a breath of fresh air after dealing with so many disappointments in the aforementioned compilation. It was a complete story, *and* it was a good story. I swear I'm trying to be objective and not compare it to the other tales in the collection. (If I did that I'd feel compelled to give this at least 11 stars.) However, I think this deserves all four stars I'm assigning it.

This was a collaboration between Dickens and Wilkie Collins. It started out as a play which I believe was shown a total of two times: the premiere in 1867, and once in 1904. This information comes from Wikipedia, so we should take it with a grain of salt, especially since it also claims that Wilkie assisted in acts one and four in the novel, and I don't think that's true. I'm hardly a Dickens scholar, but I've read about half of his stuff, and I really enjoy his style which isn't like any other I've come across. I wasn't studying it as I went along, but I think Dickens wrote "The Overture" and acts one and two, and Collins took acts three and four and "The Curtain Falls." I say this only because the transition in writing style between acts two and three is so jarring that one can't help but notice it. The stuff before is Dickensian to the hilt, and what follows is completely different, so I assume it came from Collins. All I've read of his so far is *Woman in White*, and that was almost seven years ago, so I could be wrong. It's possible they co-wrote all the sections; I don't know.

In the first half Dickens (I assume) sets up a few plot twists Helen Keller could notice from 30 leagues off...

...Sorry. Sometimes I can't help myself with the Helen Keller jokes. Anyway, Dickens still tries to leave certain parts ambiguous, but in act three, Collins (I assume) decides to quit insulting our intelligence, and flat out states "Yeah, this cat's a rat bastard just like you thought he was. Here's what's going on, not that you haven't figured it out already." Then he moves on with the story, and we get some events I wasn't anticipating as well as an ending I didn't see coming, though it wasn't a total blindside. (view spoiler)

I won't bother with the plot since so many others on here have taken care of that for me. Let's just say I really enjoyed this from start to finish. There's a bit of mystery which was fun to read about, the anticipated coincidence is present and accounted for, and there's a love interest subplot. The convoluted, gentlemanly conversations are there, as are the usual nonsensical elements that make people in the 21st century smack their heads and cry "Why didn't you just (insert simple, albeit somewhat ruder, solution here)?" I don't recall any super-silly names, though. I guess Collins took care of the nomenclature. As usual, this is considered one of Dickens' Christmas stories because it came out at Christmastime, not because it has a Christmas theme, though part of it takes place at New Year's, and a lot of it involves the winter months.

If you like Dickens and Collins, then this is sure to please.

Oh, and one last thing. There is one scene where a dude falls off a cliff. When Helen Keller did that, she screamed her hands off.

Good night, ladies and gentlemen.

Marts (Thinker) says

'No Thoroughfare' begins with one Walter Wilding mourning his mother's death and re-organising his household. However during these proceedings he finds out some rather startling news about his past and this leads to a rather complicated chain of events...

Renee M says

A charming little find for a reader working her way through the works of Mr. Dickens. A bit of research would suggest that No Thoughtfare was both the title of a play and its novelization. (Pre-Hollywood cleverness, apparently, since interest in one was likely to increase box office sales and visa versa.) Plus, it represents a collaboration between Charles Dickens and Wilkie Collins in the last years of the former's life. It is a "must read" simply for the sake of trivia, but also as sheer entertainment.

It is a novel of high melodrama, mistaken identity (two adopted orphans of the same name, forged documents, frozen Alpine skirmishes, wills and fortunes, a cool clock-lock, and a spunky heroine. Fun stuff! You can see touches of both Collins and Dickens in the tale. Overall, a very delightful read.

http://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/No_Tho...

Amle says

Walter Wilding is a young man who had been up for adoption and later reunited with his mother. They spent many happy years together but now she has passed away. While mourning his beloved mother, at the start of a very successful career, he decides to have his business as a family. He wants to live and share with his employees as the good father he had never known. Full of naive joy and well-meaning, he calls for interviews of a housekeeper and finds one he instantly feels connected to. The woman turns out to know something about his past, something neither he nor the dearly departed had known.

Who is he, this man called Walter Wilding?

I enjoyed this story very much and I find it hard to write a review that won't spoil anything. It held plenty of good characters and there were a few good twists in the plot.

This is a wonderful melodrama written by Charles Dickens and Wilkie Collins. It has mistaken identities, dark secrets, fraud, a heroine, dazzling technology (a clock-locked safe,) storms, and romance.

If I have to say something bad, it would be that Dickens should have let Collins in on more of the character construction. But we have some nice gems here all the same, just not as developed and defined as they would have been if Collins had been the principal author.

All in all, a great read.

Barbara says

An interesting compilation between the two well-known authors. The audio book It is available on LibriVox.

Piyangie says

No Thoroughfare is a play co-written by two literary giants: Charles Dickens and Wilkie Collins. Both of them were renowned Victorian authors who had different writing styles, and I was curious to read a production of their joined effort.

The story combines Collin's touch of mystery with Dickens's satire which makes it quite interesting. The Overture sets a mysterious tone to the story which was to follow. This part I trust to have been dominated by Collins, for my mind raced back to the first chapter of "The Woman in White" while I read through it. There afterwards, the story takes off with a mistaken identity, vivid set of characters including a villain and an unusual heroine for Victorian time; and the writing seems to have more influenced by Dickens as the reader can observe his authentic satire until the final act, wherein Collin's influence could be seen in unraveling and setting right the mistaken identity and seeing to the just punishment of the villain.

This was really an enjoyable read. It had adventure and humour; and it was partly a love story and a woman's courage and devotion to her love. Although certain characters seem a little farfetched, it nevertheless, heightened the dramatic quality of the play.

I'm really glad to have come across this work and to have read it thanks to the Victorians group who chose this work for their December read. Recommend to anyone who would enjoy Dickens and Collins.

Bettie? says

[image error]
